

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment submits the above changes and other information indicated below.

SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

Appropriate locations of Applicant's specification have been amended to include mention of the previously-unmentioned reference numerals which are present in the drawings, as well as to identify the prior application upon which domestic benefit is claimed in the present case. Approval and entry of the changes are respectfully requested.

REPLACEMENT ABSTRACT

The original Abstract has been amended to be of proper form and length. Approval and entry of the replacement Abstract are respectfully requested.

PENDING CLAIMS

Original Claims 1-18 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of any scope or subject matter, and original Claim 19 is pending for consideration and examination in the present divisional.

Applicant respectfully informs the Office that additional claims will be presented for consideration and examination in the present divisional by way of a timely-filed Supplemental Amendment.

CLAIMS FOR PRIORITY UNDER §§119/120

Applicant claims domestic benefit under §120 of prior Application No. 09/811,606 filed 20 March 2001. Written acknowledgment of the claim under §120 is respectfully requested.

Applicant also claims foreign priority under §119 of JP 2000-210704 filed 6 July 2000, the certified copy of which was filed and acknowledged in prior Application No. 09/811,606. Written acknowledgment of the claim under §119 is respectfully requested.

ASSIGNEE OF ENTIRE INTEREST

HITACHI, LTD. is Assignee of entire right, title and interest in and to the present divisional by virtue of the Assignment filed in prior Application No. 09/811,606 and recorded 20 March 2001 at Reel 011637, Frames 0222 *et seq.*

RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

It is respectfully submitted that any and all claim amendments and/or cancellations submitted within this paper and throughout prosecution of the present application are without prejudice or disclaimer. That is, any above statements, or any present amendment or cancellation of claims (all made without prejudice or disclaimer), should not be taken as an indication or admission that any objection/rejection was valid, or as a disclaimer of any scope or subject matter. Applicant respectfully reserves all rights to file subsequent related application(s) (including reissue applications) directed to any/all previously claimed limitations/features which have been subsequently amended or cancelled, or to

any/all limitations/features not yet claimed, *i.e.*, Applicant continues (indefinitely) to maintain no intention or desire to dedicate or surrender any limitations/features of subject matter of the present application to the public.

EXAMINER INVITED TO TELEPHONE

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the local D.C. area number of 703-312-6600, to discuss an Examiner's Amendment or other suggested action for accelerating prosecution and moving the present application to allowance.

CONCLUSION

No Petition or additional fees is required for entry of this paper.

Respectfully submitted,



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